

Mr. Payton Forms a Cribbage Club

(Story Words: cribbage, thirty, board)

Mr. Payton was everyone's favorite math teacher at South Middle School. Mr. Payton loved math and was confident that students who struggled with math could master even math they found very difficult with his help and their effort. His students knew that he liked seeing them come to his classroom before or after school, or during lunch, whenever they struggled with math.

So when he told his classes that he was starting a lunch-time cribbage club, it was not surprising that many students expressed interest.

At first, students asked, "What is cribbage?"

Mr. Payton explained that cribbage is a card game that uses a board for scoring. Like chess and checkers, cribbage is most often a two-player game. The cribbage

board has little holes. Each player has two colored pegs that “walk” around the board as the player scores. The first player to get to the finish line wins.

Players score by combining cards to make pairs or triples (two or three of the same cards). Or, they can score with “runs,” which are multiple cards in a row, for example, a five, six, and seven or a ten, Jack, and Queen.

Players also score by combining cards that add up to the numbers fifteen and thirty-one. Mr. Payton felt that a cribbage club would be a fun way for students to spend a lunch hour and perhaps make new friends.

Mr. Payton also liked the fact that students had to use their brains to see all the ways that numbers combine to make the fifteens and thirty-ones. He found that playing games like cribbage made students add and subtract with more ease. Without being aware of it, his students were sharpening their math skills while having fun.